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The Pursuit of Happiness

The family is made up of a lot of important parts like, the father, mother, and children. When those working parts are working together, everything runs smooth. But there are a lot of negative things in this world that can cause families to split apart. Some family’s reasons for splitting apart are cheating, people change, and money, like in the article “The Ballad of a Single Mother” by Lynn Olcott money was an issue for her. But when the separation happens, it not just hard on the parents, it is also hard on the child, like in the article “Children of Gay Fathers” by Robert L. Barret and Bryan E. Robinson. Also in the movie “I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry” directed by Dennis Dugan, we can see how being a single parent can be hard. Through opinions and illustrations all these share a common similarity of the families trying to find the pursuit of happiness.

In the article “The Ballard of a Single Mother”,Olcott shows the troubles she faces as a single parent. “By 1989 I had been a single parent for a few years, trying to go back to school, trying to support my family, feeling overwhelmed and exhausted.” (Olcott446). Olcott also talked about during the summer, when she was at work; it was hard for her to concentrate because she would be worried about her kids running lose. Along with distractions came a

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hardship. “One year, I lost my job. I quickly took another, but at a much lower salary.”(Olcott447). One thing you have to realize that it’s not just hard on the women but also on the men and children, like in the article “Children of Gay Fathers”, Barret and Robinson say “Much of any distress that one sees in a child living with a gay father may in fact be the result of the divorce or other family tensions.” (410). The article then goes on to talk about the legitimate concerns about the impact of living with a gay father and the stress it can put on the father when he wants to come out and tell his son about being gay but doesn’t know when or how to do it without knowing how the son is going to act. You also see this with the movie “I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry”.

In the movie two firemen that attempt to register as domestic partners in order to get pass the bureaucratic red tape preventing one of them from naming his own two children as his life-insurance beneficiaries; their low-key tricks turn into headline news in this comedy starring Adam Sandler and Kevin James. All Larry wants to do is to ensure that his two children will be taken care of if anything should happen to him on the job, and all single Chuck wants to do is to carry on with his carefree life of non-commitment. Having once rescued Larry from certain death in a particularly fearsome fire, Chuck feels forever indebted to his brave friend and has vowed to repay the favor when the time is right. Larry then discovers that the only means of avoiding the Bureaucratic red tape is to take Chuck as his lawfully wedded husband, even though it could throw his children's futures into jeopardy. His obligated pal agrees to step up to the alter with the understanding that the arrangement will be a well-kept secret between themselves and the justice of the peace. A potentially fatal mistake in their seemingly guaranteed plan is soon revealed, however, when an obsessive bureaucrat decides to question Chuck and Larry's partnership. Then

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forced to embark on a mandatory honeymoon and pose as idealistic newlyweds, Chuck and Larry quickly discover just how important it can be to stick by a friend in his or her time of need.

Even though in this movie they still experience the effect of prejudice against gays people have, it also shows how hard it would be for a single parent trying to raise his or her kids on a low income or just trying to explain to their kid how they feel about the opposite sex. Just like Barret and Robinson said “Father report that the first concern they have about coming out is the well-being and healthy adjustment of their children.”(410).

As we can see, in the two articles “The Ballad of a Single Mother” by Lynn Olcott, “Children of Gay Fathers” by Robert L. Barret and Bryan E. Robinson, and the movie “I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry” directed by Dennis Dugan. All are single parents trying to do what they feel is best for their family and ultimately trying to find for themselves the pursuit of happiness.

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